



SONG OF SOLOMON

God Created Sex
and Wrote the Manual!

WAYNE
ODONNELL

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Wayne ODonnell

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About the Front Cover

The cover photo, by E. Rehfeld, shows the Tulul adh-Dhahab archeological sites on the Zarqa (Jabbok) river.

The Tulul adh-Dhahab may be the site of Mahanaim, the place where Shulamith, Solomon's wife, grew up. The Song of Solomon mentions Mahanaim and Gilead, the area east of the Jordan river around the Jabbok River, now called the Zarqa river, now in the country of Jordan. The Song mentions flocks of goats and sheep, and wild gazelles which used to be plentiful in the area.

After working for Laban for twenty-one years in Haran for his wives and livestock, Jacob fled from his father-in-law, possibly down the King's Highway that goes from Damascus to Jerash near the Jabbok. Laban caught up with him in Gilead. After Laban left him, Jacob had to face his brother Esau at the ford across the Jabbok river. Before Jacob met Esau, the angels of God met him there also, so he called the place Mahanaim, meaning "two camps." Jacob split the people with him into two groups, and sent them across the Jabbok, and wrestled with God that night. After meeting Esau,

Jacob probably travelled down the Jabbok River to the Jordan River, and then up the Wadi Fara to Shechem (Gen. 31-33).

During the time of the Exodus, Mahanaim and the Jabbok River was the dividing line between the territories of Og, king of Bashan, to the north, and Sihon, king of the Amorites, to the south, on the east of the Jordan, both of whom were defeated by Joshua just before the Israelites entered Canaan (Joshua 13).

In the time of the judges, Gideon and his small army chased the Midianites up the Jabbok river and into Arabia before defeating them (Judg. 8:4-12).

In David's time, Ishbosheth, Saul's son, reigned two years over Israel from Mahanaim; while David reigned over Judah from Hebron (2 Sam. 2). Also, David fled to Mahanaim when his son Absalom led a rebellion, and he stood in the gate while Absalom's army was defeated (2 Sam. 17).

But Mahanaim is most precious because it was where Shulamith lived with her brothers, and tended a vineyard they leased from Solomon. She met Solomon when he came to inspect the vineyard, and before she knew it ...

*I went down to the garden of nuts
To see the verdure of the valley,
To see whether the vine had budded
And the pomegranates had bloomed.
Before I was even aware,
My soul had set me
Among the chariots of our noblemen.*

Song 6:11-12

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Introduction

All my books are available to read free online at WayneODonnell.com. “Freely you’ve received; freely give,” Mt. 10:8.

This booklet is included in and comprises one section of my book “The Special Ministries of Women: Pro-Headcovering, Pro-Remarriage in 1 Corinthians 11, Song of Solomon, and Jesus’ Teaching on Divorce.”

The Song of Solomon,” is God’s engagement, marriage, and lovemaking manual. Marriage and lovemaking are so important to God that he gave us a whole book about them. My hope is that although this booklet is small, it will be a great help to you in your engagement and marriage.

The Song of Solomon is the only book in the Bible written entirely from a woman’s perspective, Shulamith’s, even including some of her thoughts by inspiration of the Spirit of God, though it was written by her husband. I present her story in the form of a play, adding a few comments, but mostly just helping the reader understand each scene and who is speaking to whom.

In the Song, we hear about Shulamith’s

adolescence, how her brothers helped and protected her during her dating years after her father died, how she had to work in the vineyards which tanned her darkly and exposed her to mocking from other women, how she met Solomon one day while working in the vineyard, and waited out her engagement period at the palace. She warns the reader three times not to have physical relations with one's fiancé before the wedding despite strong feelings of love.

There are also three lovemaking passages in the book. First, on the wedding night, Solomon worked his way down Shulamith's body from head to toes. Secondly, Shulamith described how she would work her way down Solomon's body from head to toes after she had a separation dream. And thirdly, Solomon worked his way up her body from toes to head after making up after a quarrel. The compliments in those three passages are not just verbal compliments, but include physical caressing and kissing of the area being complimented. God created sex, and wrote the manual!



Act 1. From the Country to the Palace (1:2-2:7)

Act 1, Scene 1. Introducing the Play

(The Song of Solomon has been so abused by Jewish and Christian Bible teachers, I won't even consider any allegoric aspects it might have about the relationship between God and men. Such interpretations make us lose the book's primary purpose and value, as instruction about the affectionate relationship between husbands and wives.)

Shulamith *[narrating to the audience]*

1:1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth



Shulamith [*narrating regarding Solomon*]

For your love is better than wine.

3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth;

Therefore the virgins love you.

4 Draw me away!

(Shulamith likes Solomon because he has a good 'name,' meaning a good reputation and character. He treats waiters and waitresses with respect, for example.)

Daughters of Jerusalem [*Narrating re. Solomon*]

We will run after you [masc. sing.]!

Act 1, Scene 2. In the Throne Room

Shulamith [*narrating the scene*]

The king has brought me into his chambers.

The Daughters of Jerusalem [*to Solomon*]

We will be glad and rejoice in you [masc. sing.].

We will remember your [masc. sing.] love more
than wine.

Shulamith [*narrating her thoughts re. Solomon*]

Rightly do they love you.

(Shulamith is very nervous when she, a hard-working country girl, tanned by the sun, is first brought to the palace and introduced to the



women of the court. She is worried they might not accept her.)

Shulamith [*to the Daughters of Jerusalem*]

5 I am dark, but lovely,

O daughters of Jerusalem,

Like the tents of Kedar,

Like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark,

Because the sun has tanned me.

My mother's sons were angry with me;

They made me the keeper of the vineyards,

But my own vineyard [her body, because she's too tanned] I have not kept.

(Now Shulamith wants to know Solomon's schedule and the proper times he will have available for her. As king of Israel, he's a busy man with a lot of responsibilities, and she doesn't want to be chasing him around or interrupting him during government business.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

7 Tell me, O you whom I love,

Where you feed your flock,

Where you make it rest at noon.

For why should I be as one who veils herself [or 'wanders']

By the flocks of your companions?

(The women of the court are not very kind in their first interaction with Shulamith. They are leaving it up to her to prove herself to them.)

**Daughters of Jerusalem** [*to Shulamith*]

8 If you do not know, O fairest among women,
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
And feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds' tents.

(Solomon is sensitive to Shulamith's situation, and publicly stands up for her, and thereby wins over the support of the women of the court for her.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

9 I have compared you, my love,
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.
10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
Your neck with chains of gold.

Daughters of Jerusalem [*to Shulamith*]

11 We will make you [fem. sing.] ornaments of
gold
With studs of silver.

Act 1, Scene 3. At the Welcome Banquet

(Shulamith notices the fragrance from her necklace that has a container of myrrh on it.)

Shulamith [*narrating the scene*]

12 While the king is at his table,
My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.

(The container of myrrh on her necklace dangles



between her breasts, and she looks forward to the night when Solomon will be like that to her.)

Shulamith [*narrating her thoughts*]

13 A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me,
That lies all night between my breasts.

14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms
In the vineyards of En Gedi
[an oasis along the Dead Sea].

Act 1, Scene 4. The Picnic

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

15 Behold, you are fair, my love!
Behold, you are fair!
You have dove's eyes.

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

16 Behold, you are handsome, my beloved!
Yes, pleasant!

(Shulamith begins playing and pretending they are in a house made of the grass and trees around them.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

Also our bed is green.
17 The beams of our houses are cedar,
And our rafters of fir.

(She humbly compares herself to a common, meadow wild-flower.)



Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

2:1 I am the rose of Sharon
[the plain along the Mediterranean Sea],
And the lily of the valleys.

(Solomon doesn't deny the truth of her humble origins, but he won't let her speak lowly of herself.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

2 Like a lily among thorns,
So is my love among the daughters.

(Shulamith returns his compliment. She compares him to a fruit tree among non-fruit trees, because he provides for her and shelters her. He is a safe place for her, free of criticism.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods,
So is my beloved among the sons.
I sat down in his shade with great delight,
And his fruit was sweet to my taste.

Act 1, Scene 5. The Second Banquet

Shulamith [*narrating the scene*]

4 He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me was love.



Shulamith [*in her thoughts to Solomon as she watches him across the tables*]

5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins,
Refresh me with apples,
For I am lovesick.

Shulamith [*imagining the future*]

6 His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.

(Having just mentioned the pain of waiting, and having just imagined the time when they will be married and able to express themselves to each other physically, Shulamith gives the first warning which is repeated over and over in this book, and one of its main themes; that unmarried couples must be very careful not to have any physical contact that could arouse physical desires before the wedding night.)

Warning #1

Shulamith [*narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem*]

7 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the doe of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases [until the proper time, which is the wedding night].



Act 2. Engaged Life (2:8-3:5)

Act 2, Scene 1. Solomon Arrives for an Outing

Shulamith *[narrating the scene as Solomon arrives at her apartment in the palace and peeks through the lattice in his eagerness to see her]*

8 The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes

Leaping upon the mountains,

Skipping upon the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Behold, he stands behind our wall;

He is looking through the windows,

Gazing through the lattice.

10 My beloved spoke, and said to me:

Solomon *[to Shulamith]*

Rise up, my love, my fair one,

And come away.

11 For lo, the winter is past,

The rain is over and gone.

12 The flowers appear on the earth;

The time of singing has come,

And the voice of the turtledove

Is heard in our land.

13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs,

And the vines with the tender grapes

Give a good smell.

Rise up, my love, my fair one,

And come away!



Act 2, Scene 2. At the Mountains

Solomon *[to Shulamith]*

14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the secret places of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice is sweet,
And your face is lovely.

(They've made it this far, and they mutually decide to be diligent to ensure nothing prevents them from reaching the wedding day.)

Solomon and Shulamith *[to each other, summing up their conversation among the vineyards]*

15 Catch us the foxes,
The little foxes that spoil the vines,
For our vines have tender grapes.

Shulamith *[her thoughts]*

16 My beloved is mine, and I am his.
He feeds his flock among the lilies.

(Feeding his flock among the lilies shows that she appreciates that Solomon, though strong, is a kind, peaceful, refined man that appreciates beauty and sentimental things. No crass, beer-drinking couch potato here!)

Shulamith *[expressing her wish for the future]*

17 Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
Turn, my beloved,



And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
Upon the mountains of Bether
[meaning 'mountains of separation', i.e. her
breasts].

Act 2, Scene 3. A Separation Dream

(Subconsciously worried something might go wrong and prevent the wedding from taking place, Shulamith's anxiety causes her to have a separation dream.)

Shulamith [*narrating a separation dream*]

3:1 By night on my bed I sought the one I love;

I sought him, but I did not find him.

2 "I will rise now," I said,

"And go about the city;

In the streets and in the squares

I will seek the one I love."

I sought him, but I did not find him.

3 The watchmen who go about the city found me;

I said, "Have you seen the one I love?"

4 Scarcely had I passed by them,

When I found the one I love.

I held him and would not let him go,

Until I had brought him to the house of my
mother,

And into the chamber of her who conceived me.

(This is how Isaac and Rebekah were married.
"And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's
tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife;



and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death," Gen. 24:67.)

Warning #2

Shulamith *[narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem]*

5 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the doe of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases.

Act 3. The Wedding Day (3:6-5:1)

Act 3, Scene 1. The Wedding Procession

Shulamith *[narrating the scene]*

6 Who is this coming out of the wilderness
Like pillars of smoke,
Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,
With all the merchant's fragrant powders?

7 Behold, it is Solomon's couch,
With sixty valiant men around it,
Of the valiant of Israel.

8 They all hold swords,
Being expert in war.

Every man has his sword on his thigh
Because of fear in the night.

9 Of the wood of Lebanon
Solomon the King

Made himself a palanquin [a portable enclosed
chair carried by men]:

10 He made its pillars of silver,



Its support of gold,
Its seat of purple,
Its interior paved with love
By the daughters of Jerusalem.
11 Go forth, O daughters of Zion,
And see King Solomon with the crown
With which his mother crowned him
On the day of his wedding,
The day of the gladness of his heart.

Act 3, Scene 2. The Wedding Night

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

4:1 Behold, you are fair, my love!
Behold, you are fair!
You have dove's eyes behind your veil.
Your hair is like a flock of goats,
Going down from Mount Gilead.

(Solomon is not telling her she has goat-like hair. He is telling her that her wavy hair gives him the same feeling he has on a warm, lazy evening, with the smells of summer in the air, as he watches the flocks on distant Mount Gilead wend their ways down the mountain. He saw scenes like this while visiting Shulamith's hometown since she was from the area of Mahanaim near Mount Gilead, so this would evoke fond memories for Shulamith.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep
Which have come up from the washing,



Every one of which bears twins,
And none is barren among them.

(Again, Solomon is not saying it's nice she's not missing a lot of teeth. He's saying the sight of her teeth, as he and she smile and laugh together, gives him the same kind of happy feeling he gets when he watches the sheep and lambs coming up out of the water and jumping about, shaking the water off, etc. These kinds of compliments include the feelings, looks, smells, sounds, memories, etc. that they evoke.)

(It should also be noted at this point that the Song of Solomon is not only a romance, engagement, and marriage manual, but also a manual of physical lovemaking. So when you read these compliments, they are not just verbal compliments. Solomon is giving physical attention to the area that he is talking about. In this passage, he starts with Shulamith's hair and face and then works his way down her body, complimenting, caressing, kissing, etc.)

Lovemaking Manual, Lesson #1

Solomon *[to Shulamith]*

3 Your lips are like a strand of scarlet,
And your mouth is lovely.

Your temples behind your veil
Are like a piece of pomegranate.

4 Your neck is like the tower of David,
Built for an armory,



On which hang a thousand bucklers,
All shields of mighty men.
5 Your two breasts are like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle,
Which feed among the lilies.

(In the previous verse, Solomon is caressing her breasts gently with feather-touches, like he would pet fawns. In the next verse he arrives at “the mound of myrrh,” “the hill of frankincense.” Since her breasts were the “mountains of separation,” and he is working down her body from there, you can figure out for yourself what the “mound of frankincense” refers to.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

6 Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh
And to the hill of frankincense.

(At this point, Solomon pauses. He is waiting for Shulamith to become as aroused as he is.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

7 You are all fair, my love,
And there is no spot in you.

(He tells her to put her worries behind her and concentrate on their enjoyment of each other.)



Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse,
With me from Lebanon.

Look from the top of Amana,
From the top of Senir and Hermon,
From the lions' dens,
From the mountains of the leopards.

(Notice Solomon's love making involves verbal expressions, and is not all silent touching. He doesn't 'talk dirty' or mean or crass, like is popular in our culture, but is gentle and complimentary and expresses his love and feelings and enjoyment.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

9 You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one look of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace.

10 How fair is your love,
My sister, my spouse!
How much better than wine is your love,
And the scent of your perfumes
Than all spices!

(Whereas earlier Solomon gently kissed her "lips like a strand of scarlet," now he more passionately 'French' or deep kisses her mouth to reach the tastes of 'honey and milk' under her tongue.)



Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

11 Your lips, O my spouse,
Drip as the honeycomb;
Honey and milk are under your tongue;
And the fragrance of your garments
Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

(Now Solomon is waiting for Shulamith to be ready to open her “enclosed garden.”)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

12 A garden enclosed
Is my sister, my spouse,
A spring shut up,
A fountain sealed.
13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates
With pleasant fruits,

(Solomon is becoming quite passionate while waiting, and starting to mix his metaphors in his urgency.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

Fragrant henna with spikenard,
14 Spikenard and saffron,
Calamus and cinnamon,
With all trees of frankincense,
Myrrh and aloes,
With all the chief spices—
15 A fountain of gardens,
A well of living waters,
And streams from Lebanon.

(Finally Shulamith is also ready.)



Shulamith [*in Solomon's hearing*]

16 Awake, O north wind,
And come, O south!
Blow upon my garden,
That its spices may flow out.
Let my beloved come to his garden
And eat its pleasant fruits.

(A curtain discreetly descends to hide the couple at this time.)

(Solomon doesn't immediately roll over and go to sleep, but continues to give Shulamith some attention after making love, and expresses his satisfaction.)

Solomon [*to a sleepy Shulamith*]

5:1 I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice;
I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey;
I have drunk my wine with my milk.

CENTRAL VERSE OF THE CHIASM

(The following verse is at the center of the book and forms a chiasm where the same sections follow afterwards in reverse order as the sections that came before.

Act 1: From the Country to the Palace
including a trip to the country

Act 2: Engaged Life
including a separation dream



Act 3: The Wedding Day
including the central verse God speaks

Act 4: Life During Marriage
including a separation dream

Act 5: From the Palace to the Country
including a trip to the country

The central verse portrays God as the creator of physical lovemaking, and as deriving pleasure from seeing the couple happy and satisfied thereby. This is the only 'direct reference' to God in the book.)

God *[narrating to the couple]*
Eat, O friends!
Drink, yes, drink deeply,
O beloved ones!

Act 4. Married Life (5:2-7:10)

Act 4, Scene 1. At Shulamith's Room

(Shulamith has gone to bed and is falling asleep.)

Shulamith *[narrating the scene]*
2 I sleep, but my heart is awake;
It is the voice of my beloved!
He knocks, saying,



(Solomon unexpectedly had some time freed up from a cancelled trip or something, and with great happiness he runs to Shulamith's room to spend the night with her.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

Open for me, my sister, my love,
My dove, my perfect one;
For my head is covered with dew,
My locks with the drops of the night.

(But Shulamith isn't immediately thrilled with his arrival. Why didn't he tell her he was coming? She's sleepy and in bed already.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

3 I have taken off my robe;
How can I put it on again?
I have washed my feet;
How can I defile them?

(After some delay, she realizes the situation and is happy they will have some time together, so she puts on some perfume and goes to the door.)

Shulamith [*narrating*]

4 My beloved put his hand
By the latch of the door,
And my heart yearned for him.
5 I arose to open for my beloved,
And my hands dripped with myrrh,
My fingers with liquid myrrh,
On the handles of the lock.



(But Solomon was offended by her first response. He was so happy to be able to spend the time with her, and she apparently didn't feel the same way, so instead of being understanding and patient, he was offended and left.)

Shulamith [*narrating*]

6 I opened for my beloved,
But my beloved had turned away and was gone.
My heart leaped up when he spoke.
I sought him, but I could not find him;
I called him, but he gave me no answer.

(Shulamith goes back to bed and has another anxiety dream.)

Shulamith [*narrating her dream*]

7 The watchmen who went about the city found
me.
They struck me, they wounded me;
The keepers of the walls
Took my veil away from me.

Shulamith [*narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem*]

8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
If you find my beloved,
That you tell him I am lovesick!
The Daughters of Jerusalem

Daughters of Jerusalem [*narrating to Shulamith*]

9 What is your beloved
More than another beloved,
O fairest among women?
What is your beloved



More than another beloved,
That you so charge us?

(The following is a description of Shulamith's enjoyment of Solomon's physique, but it's also another set of love making instructions for when the woman takes the initiative. Here Shulamith starts at Solomon's head and works down. Again, she is caressing and kissing as well as complimenting.)

Lovemaking Manual, Lesson #2

Shulamith [*narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem*]

10 My beloved is white and ruddy,

Chief among ten thousand.

11 His head is like the finest gold;

His locks are wavy,

And black as a raven.

12 His eyes are like doves

By the rivers of waters,

Washed with milk,

And fitly set.

13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices,

Banks of scented herbs.

His lips are lilies,

Dripping liquid myrrh.

14 His hands are rods of gold

Set with beryl.

His body is carved ivory

Inlaid with sapphires.

15 His legs are pillars of marble

Set on bases of fine gold.

(Solomon would probably especially enjoy the attention at this point.)



His countenance is like Lebanon,
Excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet,
Yes, he is altogether lovely.
(Though they are lovers, they are friends also.)
This is my beloved,
And this is my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem!

Act 4, Scene 2. At Solomon's Garden

The Daughters of Jerusalem [*narrating to Shulamith*]

6:1 Where has your beloved gone,
O fairest among women?
Where has your beloved turned aside,
That we may seek him with you?

(Shulamith knows Solomon usually takes a walk in his ornamental gardens when he's upset. She takes the initiative and goes to him. Once again, she points out his gentleness, refinement, and sensitivity.)

Shulamith [*narrating to the Daughters*]

2 My beloved has gone to his garden,
To the beds of spices,
To feed his flock in the gardens,
And to gather lilies.
3 I am my beloved's,
And my beloved is mine.
He feeds his flock among the lilies.



(Solomon doesn't hold a grudge. When he sees Shulamith coming, he doesn't make some snide remark. He would soon have taken the initiative to make up, but he is happy to see her coming to him, and immediately welcomes and praises her. Some of his praises to her are the same as on their wedding night, and he is still as passionate for her as ever.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

4 O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,
Lovely as Jerusalem,
Awesome as an army with banners!
5 Turn your eyes away from me,
For they have overcome me.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
Going down from Gilead.
6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep
Which have come up from the washing;
Every one bears twins,
And none is barren among them.
7 Like a piece of pomegranate
Are your temples behind your veil.

(The make-up session moves towards Shulamith's bedroom at this point.)

(Shulamith is wife number sixty of Solomon, who eventually was married to a thousand wives and concubines.)



Solomon *[narrating to Shulamith]*

8 There are sixty queens,
And eighty concubines,
And virgins without number.
9 My dove, my perfect one,
Is the only one,
The only one of her mother,
The favorite of the one who bore her.
The daughters saw her
And called her blessed,
The queens and the concubines,
And they praised her.
10 Who is she who looks forth as the morning,
Fair as the moon,
Clear as the sun,
Awesome as an army with banners?

(Solomon had met Shulamith when he went to inspect some vineyards he had leased out. Shulamith had taken some time off from her work to take a walk in the orchards and vineyards. Solomon saw her and spoke with her, one thing led to another, and soon they were engaged.)

Shulamith *[narrating how she met Solomon]*

11 I went down to the garden of nuts
To see the verdure of the valley,
To see whether the vine had budded
And the pomegranates had bloomed.
12 Before I was even aware,
My soul had made me
As the chariots of my noble people [Hebrew
'Ammi Nadib'].



Act 4, Scene 3. Back at Shulamith's Room

(Everyone's happy the couple made up.)

The Daughters of Jerusalem [*narrating to Shulamith*]

13 Return, return, O Shulamite;
Return, return, that we may look upon you!

("Shulamith" or "Shulamit" is the feminine form of "Solomon" meaning "peace," so her actual name may have been something else. Below are the Hebrew and English versions "Shalom/Peace," "Shlomo/Solomon," and "Salome/Shulamith". The same three root letters make up all three words in Hebrew, which is written from right-to-left, "Sh - l - m," but the 'm' is drawn a little differently whenever it ends a word.)

שָׁלוֹם

Shalom - Peace

שְׁלֹמֹה

Shlomo - Solomon

שׁוּלָמִית

Shulamith - Salome

(Shulamith was from the town of Mahanaim, east of the Jordan River, near the Jabbok River in Gilead. 'Mahanaim' means "two camps" or "two hosts." It was so named by Jacob because God's



host of angels met Jacob's host of his family there, and also because Jacob divided his family into two hosts out of fear of Esau, Gen. 32:1-10.)

Shulamith [*narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem. Shulamith dances for Solomon*]

What would you see in Shulamith —
As it were, the dance of the Mahanaim

(The love making after making up. This time, Solomon begins at her feet and moves upwards.)

Lovemaking Manual, Lesson #3

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

7:1 How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O prince's daughter!

The curves of your thighs are like jewels,
The work of the hands of a skillful workman.

2 Your navel is a rounded goblet;
It lacks no blended [intoxicating] beverage.
Your waist is a heap of wheat
Set about with lilies.

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle.

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower,
Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon
By the gate of Bath Rabbim.
Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon
Which looks toward Damascus.

5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,

(Her hair entangles Solomon's fingers and holds him like a purple-curtained gallery would do during the presentation of music or a play. It's



extremely difficult for one army to conquer another and put its king in shackles, but she has taken him, the king of Israel, captive in her hair.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

And the hair of your head is like purple [cloth];

A king is held captive by your tresses.

6 How fair and how pleasant you are,

O love, with your delights!

7 This stature of yours is like a palm tree,

And your breasts like its clusters.

8 I said, "I will go up to the palm tree,

I will take hold of its branches."

(In verse 3 above, as in 4:5, Solomon again gently caressed her breasts, but now he is going to passionately squeeze them.)

Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
The fragrance of your breath like apples,

(In a previous chapter, Solomon French kissed under her tongue for the taste of honey and milk, but now he will French kiss the roof of her mouth for the taste and intoxicating effect of wine.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.

(Shulamith is also ready.)



Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

The wine which goes down smoothly for my
beloved,

(They make love and fall asleep again.)

Daughters of Jerusalem [*narrating*]

Moving gently the lips of sleepers.

(Someone has said, "The woman is the desire of
the man, and to be desired is the desire of the
woman.")

Shulamith [*narrating*]

10 I am my beloved's,
And his desire is toward me.

Act 5. From the Palace to the Country (7:11- 8:14)

Act 5, Scene 1. Arrival at Mahanaim

(Shulamith and Solomon take a trip to Mahanaim
where Shulamith grew up. They revisit the spot
where they first met. Shulamith joyfully shows
Solomon around the places she is so familiar with,
and they visit her relatives.)

**Shulamith** [*to Solomon*]

11 Come, my beloved,
Let us go forth to the field;
Let us lodge in the villages.
12 Let us get up early to the vineyards;
Let us see if the vine has budded,
[where they first met, see 6:11]
Whether the grape blossoms are open,
And the pomegranates are in bloom.
There I will give you my love.
13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance,
And at our gates are pleasant fruits,
All manner, new and old,
Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

(Shulamith imagines how great it would have been to have grown up with Solomon during her childhood years.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

8:1 Oh, that you were like my brother,
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I should find you outside,
I would kiss you;
I would not be despised.
2 I would lead you and bring you
Into the house of my mother,
She who used to instruct me.
I would cause you to drink of spiced wine,
Of the juice of my pomegranate.



Act 5, Scene 2. Staying Overnight in Mahanaim

(Shulamith is happy she doesn't have to imagine now, because her and Solomon are together and he is holding her. Isolated verses like these are also part of the love making manual. This one, for example, presents a good position for cuddling.)

Shulamith *[narrating the scene]*

3 His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.

(Once again, Shulamith warns the unmarried against getting physical before marriage. Aroused passions cloud one's judgment, and put the obtaining of a good and lasting marriage at risk.)

Warning #3

Shulamith *[narrating to the Daughters of Jerusalem]*

4 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
Until it pleases
[until the right time, i.e. at marriage].

Act 5, Scene 3. Visit to Shulamith's Relatives

Shulamith *[narrating the scene thinking of the change in herself since the time of her childhood]*

5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness,
Leaning upon her beloved?



(Here is another reference to the provisions and shelter of the apple tree. Solomon speaks of Shulamith having been protected and provided for throughout her life to maintain her chastity, honor, and safety. First, she was loved and protected by her own family, and then Solomon was careful to treat her properly and safely throughout their courtship and engagement. Solomon didn't believe in breaking women's hearts, or selfishly using and then leaving them. Solomon awoke Shulamith's passion in a safe, legitimate, protected environment, that her parents would have approved of; not while in a parked car on skyline drive.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

5b I awakened you under the apple tree.
There your mother brought you forth;
There she who bore you brought you forth.

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;

Warning to Be Faithful in Engagement and Marriage

Solomon [*to the audience*]

For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave [sheol, hell];
Its flames are flames of fire,
A most vehement flame
[Literally, A flame of Jehovah].



7 Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.

(Shulamith was protected by her brothers before she met Solomon. Probably her father had died while she was young. Her brothers decided that if Shulamith was too shy to meet people (“a wall”), they would help her safely do so; but if she was too open and vulnerable (“a door”), they would filter her potential suitors and restrict access to her.)

Shulamith's Brothers *[narrating to each other and the audience in a flashback to the past]*

8 We have a little sister,
And she has no breasts.
What shall we do for our sister
In the day when she is spoken for?

9 If she is a wall,
We will build upon her
A battlement of silver;
And if she is a door,
We will enclose her
With boards of cedar.

(Shulamith was not shy, and she was not too open.)



Shulamith [*to her brothers and the audience*]

10 I am a wall,
And my breasts like towers.

(The time of uncertainty and risk while Shulamith was single became a time of peace when she was blessed to be chosen by good man, unlike many men that make marriage worse than singleness for their wives.)

Shulamith [*to the audience*]

Then I became in his eyes
As one who found peace.

(Shulamith tells how she met Solomon while she was working in the vineyards that her brothers leased from Solomon for 1000 silver coins per year. As she said back in 1:6, "The sun has tanned me. My mother's sons ... made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept." Baal Ammon would have been near Mahanaim where the tribe of Gad settled, because the country of Ammon was near Mahanaim. Today, the whole area is Jordan with its capital in Amman, Jordon.)

Shulamith [*to the audience*]

11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon
[Baal Ammon].
He leased the vineyard to keepers.
Everyone was to bring for its fruit
A thousand silver coins.



(Solomon gets the full benefit, the 1000 silver coins, of Shulamith and her physical love; but she asks that her brothers be granted a stipend of 200 silver coins per year in appreciation of their care and protection of her in the past, which made it possible for Shulamith and Solomon to be together now.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

12 My own vineyard is before me.

You, O Solomon, may have a thousand,
And those who tend its fruit two hundred.

Act 5, Scene 4. Conclusion

(Solomon loves his country girl. He loves to see her, talk with her, and hear the sound of her voice. He doesn't make jokes that his wife talks too much, like people today do. He wants to spend as much time as possible with her. Having a husband that talks with her is as important to a woman, as having a woman that makes love with him is to a man.)

Solomon [*to Shulamith*]

13 You who dwell in the gardens,

The companions listen for your voice —

Let me hear it!

(Shulamith appreciates all Solomon's attention,



and looks forward to his enthusiastic and joyful physical enjoyment of her. As the New Testament admonishes, in less poetic terms, "To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife doesn't have power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband doesn't have power of his own body, but the wife. Don't defraud one the other, unless it be with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, so that Satan doesn't tempt you for your incontinency," 1 Cor. 7:2-5.)

Shulamith [*to Solomon*]

14 Make haste, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
On the mountains of spices!!!